

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 USSS-00 FBIE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 PRS-01 USIE-00

EB-07 SAM-01 SCCT-01 SP-02 L-02 NSCE-00 NSC-05 CPR-01

SS-15 PA-01 /061 W

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0921

S E C R E T JIDDA 2661

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, OVIP (YAMANI, ZAKI) US, SA

SUBJ: TRAVEL OF SAUDI MINISTER OF PERTROLEUM

REF : STATE 084177

1. YAMANI IS FULLY AWARE OF CONTINUING PROBLEMS INVOLVING SAUDI UN MISSION PERSONNEL IN NEW YORK AND RECENT BOMB THREATS AGAINST EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. HE HAS VERY RECENTLY DISCUSSED SECURITY SITUATION WITH AMBASSADOR AND FEELS HIS HIGHLY-PUBLICIZED SPEAKING AND MEDIA APPEARANCES WILL TEND TO FOCUS SPECIAL ATTENTION ON HIS PRESENCE IN U.S. EMBASSY AGREES AND FEELS IT MANDATORY THAT SPECIAL SECURITY PROTECTION BE PROVIDED. SUCH PROVISION WILL EASE YAMANI'S (AND EMBASSY'S) MIND ON WHAT IS RECOGNIZED HERE AS A VERY REAL POSSIBILITY OF EMBARRASSING INCIDENT OR ATTEMPT ON THE MINISTER'S LIFE.

2. SAUDIS ARE AT PRESENT PROVIDING FULL SPECIAL PROTECTIVE SECURITY DETAILS TO VISITING UNITED STATES DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CLEMENTS AND CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF BROWN. THEY HAVE GIVEN FULL COVERAGE TO MORE THAN 20 U.S. DELEGATIONS IN THE PAST YEAR. SOME INDIVIDUALS COVERED WERE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY RANK. SAUDIS HAVE NEVER QUESTIONED

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VALIDITY OF U.S. GOVERNMENT SECURITY REQUESTS. THEY GRACIOUSLY

(AND VERY PROFESSIONALLY) PROVIDE THE BEST THEY HAVE ON EVERY OCCASION. IT WOULD DO OUR PROGRAM LITTLE GOOD INDEED IF WE WERE TO REFUSE THE KINGDOM'S MOST IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL FIGURE BASIC PROTECTIVE SERVICES. (IF AN INCIDENT WERE TO OCCUR, OUR REFUSAL WOULD BE INDEFENSIBLE.)

3. THE SAUDIS PROVIDE THE EMBASSY WITH A 100-MAN INFANTRY COMPANY AND A 10-MAN PROFESSIONAL PROTECTIVE SECURITY DETAIL ON A FULL-TIME BASIS. IN THE EMOTION-LADEN HOURS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE RECENT ASSASSINATION OF KING FAISAL THEY REACHED INTO THEIR BAG AND ON VERY SHORT NOTICE PROVIDED FULL CHIEF-OF-STATE COVERAGE FOR VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER. FULL FORMAL COVERAGE WAS PROVIDED THE VICE PRESIDENT EVEN THOUGH THE SAUDIS HAD TO STRIP DETAILS PROVIDED OTHER CHIEFS OF STATE AND FOREIGN CABINET MEMBERS TO THE BONE. RECIPROCITY TO THEIR REACTION ON EMBASSY'S NEEDS ALONE SEEMS ENOUGH TO WARRANT BOTH "OFFICIAL GUEST OF US" STATUS AND SPECIAL SECURITY PROTECTION WITHOUT CONSIDERING VERY REAL THREAT POSSIBILITY.

4. YAMANI'S OFFICE INFORMED EMBASSY TODAY HE WILL LEAVE LONDON TUESDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 15, ON A PRIVATE PLANE, ARRIVING IN WASHINGTON AT 1700 OR 1800. SPOKESMEN ARE UNSURE AT THIS TIME WHETHER HE WILL BE TRAVELING ON A MOBIL OIL COMPANY OR AN ARAMCO AIRPLANE. HAVE ASKED FOR PRECISION IN MATTER AND HOPE TO HAVE HARD DETAILS SOON. WILL PASS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHEN AVAILABLE.

5. THE SCHEDULE NOW CALLS FOR A SPEECH (NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS) ON THE 18TH, THE ARAMCO BOARD MEETING ON THE 19TH AND THE "FACE THE NATION" APPEARANCE ON THE 20TH. HE WILL LEAVE ON THE 20TH OR THE 21ST. HE WILL BE STAYING AT THE WATERGATE HOTEL THROUGHOUT.

6. THE EMBASSY WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN THIS MATTER. PLEASE TRANSMIT DECISIONS OR REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION IMMEDIATE.
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